

## **REMARKS**

Claims 1-2, 4-11, 14-16, 18, 20, 22-25, and 27 were pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 7, 11, 16, 18, 22-25, and 27 have been amended. Claims 31-34 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-2, 4-11, 14-16, 18, 20, 22-25, 27, and 31-34 are now pending in the application.

### **Allowable Subject Matter**

Claims 7-11, 14, 15, and 20 were allowed. Applicant appreciates Examiner's consideration of these claims.

### **35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection**

Claims 1-2, 4-6, 16, 18, 22-25, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lawrence et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,867,701) in view of Wong (U.S. Patent No. 5,790,374), and further in view of Shimomura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,895,183).

Claims 1, 16, 18, 22-25, and 27 have been amended to incorporate the features of original claim 13, which are also included in allowed claim 7. Applicant submits that each of the amended claims 1, 16, 18, 22-25, and 27 recites a combination of features deemed allowable by the Examiner. In accordance, amended claims 1, 16, 18, 22-25, and 27 are believed to patentably distinguish over the cited references, whether alone or combined. Claims 2 and 4-6 depend on amended claim 1 and are therefore believed to patentably distinguish over the cited references, whether alone or combined, for at least the same reasons.

Furthermore, Applicant requests examination of new claims 31-34. Claim 31 depends on amended claim 16, claim 32 depends on amended claim 18, claim 33 depends on amended claim 25, and claim 34 depends on amended claim 27. Therefore, claims 31-34 are believed to

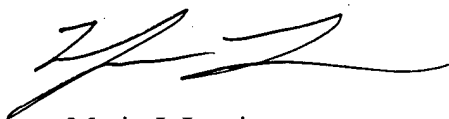
patentably distinguish over the cited references, whether alone or combined, for at least the reasons described above.

### CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If a phone interview would speed allowance of any pending claims, such is requested at the Examiner's convenience.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5681-71600/BNK.

Respectfully submitted,



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